

CLAIM SUMMARY DOCUMENT

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) An absorptive product that is elongate in a longitudinal direction and has a surface side configured for contact with a body, comprising:

a back sheet which has a shape elongated in one direction and prevents the permeation of liquid;

a liquid permeable surface material which is arranged on a the surface side ~~which is brought into~~ configured for contact with a body; and

an absorbent which is arranged between the back sheet and the surface material and is capable of absorbing and holding a ~~absorbs and holds the~~ liquid which permeates the surface material; ;

~~wherein the absorptive product includes~~

a resilient body which is fixed at least to the absorbent ~~side~~ in a center region in ~~the a~~ lateral direction of the product and imparts a contracting force to the absorbent with respect to the ~~arrangement~~ longitudinal direction; ;and

slits which are formed in the absorbent in ~~the vicinity of~~ a region on which the contracting ~~operation~~ force of the resilient body acts.

2. (Currently Amended) An absorptive product according to claim 1, wherein the resilient body is arranged such that the resilient body imparts the contracting force to the absorbent mainly along the longitudinal direction of the product, the resilient body including two laterally spaced sides, and the slits are respectively arranged adjacent each of the laterally spaced ~~at both sides~~ with respect to the resilient body ~~in the lateral direction of the product.~~

3. (Currently Amended) An absorptive product according to claim 2, wherein the slits have ~~at least one~~ longitudinal end sides thereof parted away from the resilient body.

4. (Currently Amended) An absorptive product according to claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein the slits are formed ~~on adjacent~~ both sides of the resilient body such that one slit is formed on each side in symmetry and both slits have center portions thereof in the longitudinal direction thereof arranged close to each other and other portions thereof gradually parted away corresponding to the distance from the center portions.

5. (Currently Amended) An absorptive product according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the resilient body is formed of a film-like resilient body having a given width which imparts a contracting force mainly in the longitudinal direction.

6. (Currently Amended) An absorptive product according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the absorbent is formed by stacking a first absorbent layer having high liquid diffusivity ~~of the absorbed liquid~~ and a second absorbent layer having high liquid holding property ~~of the absorbed liquid~~, the resilient body is fixed to the second absorbent layer ~~side~~, and the ~~above-mentioned~~ slits are formed in the second absorbent layer.

7. (Original) An absorptive product according to claim 6, wherein a notched portion is formed in the first absorbent layer corresponding to a position where the resilient body is formed.

REMARKS

Favorable consideration, examination, and allowance of the present patent application are respectfully requested. The foregoing amendments are made to remove multiple dependencies in the claims, and to effect minor editorial and stylistic changes in the specification and claims which do not relate to the patentability of the claims. No new matter has been entered.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present patent application is in condition for allowance. An early indication of the allowability of the present patent application is therefore respectfully solicited.

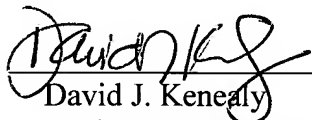
If the patent examiner believes that a telephone conference with the undersigned would expedite passage of the present patent application to issue, the Examiner is invited to call on the number below.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. If, however, additional extensions of time or fees are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time and fees are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees necessitated by this paper, and to credit all refunds and overpayments, to our Deposit Account 50-2821.

Constructive Petition

- [X] **Except** for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. §1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including filing fees, fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, and any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Applicant's representative's Deposit Account No. 50-2821. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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